

REMARKS

Claims 1-16, 18-22, 24-28, 30-34, 36-40, 42-45, 47-50 and 52-67 are pending in this application. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks.

Objections to Drawings

The Examiner has accepted the corrected drawings filed on 13-Feb-03; however, the Examiner maintains the objection of the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a) with regard to the method steps in claims 55-66. Applicant respectfully submits that a detailed illustration is not essential for a proper understanding of the invention as claimed in method steps 55-66. *See* 37 CFR 1.81(a). Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection of the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a).

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 1-3, 10-12, 15, 16, 19, 22, 25 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sachs, of record, in view of Marbler (EP 1 136 379 A1).

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lim, of record, in view of Marbler (EP 1 136 379 A1).

Claims 4, 6, 7, 31, 34, 45, 48, 50 and 52 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sachs in view of either Lim or LaRosa, all of record, in view of Marbler (EP 1 136 379 A1).

Claims 8, 9, 13, 14, 18, 21, 24, 27, 30, 33, 36, 39, 42, 44, 47, 49, 53 and 54 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the references as applied to claims 1-7 above and further in view of Gilchrist, Jr. in the manner set forth in paragraph 6 of the previous Office Action, Paper No. 5.

Claims 37 and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sachs in view of Lim as applied in paragraph 7 of the previous Office Action, and further in view of Marbler (EP 1 136 379 A1).

Claims 12, 20, 26, 32, 38 and 43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the references as applied to claims 1-7 above, and further in view of Gluckenberger in the manner set forth in paragraph 9 of the previous Office Action.

Claim 55 and 59 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the references as applied to claims 1-7 and 53 above, and further in view of Smyth.

Claim 63 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the references as applied to claim 54 above, and further in view of Smyth as applied to claims 55 and 59 above and Venturini.

Claims 56, 58, 60, 62, 64 and 66 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the references as applied to claims 55, 59 and 63 above, and further in view of Chester for the reasons set forth in paragraph 12 of the previous Office Action.

Claims 57, 61 and 65 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the references as applied to claims 55, 59 and 63 above, and further in view of Glukenberger, for the reasons set forth in paragraph 13 of the previous Office Action.

Claim 67 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schmidt et al., of record, in view of Marbler.

The Examiner has rejected all of the pending claims as being unpatentable over several different references in view of Marbler. Applicant respectfully asserts that the publication date of Marbler (EP 1 136 379 A1), September 26, 2001, is subsequent to our filing date of August 10, 2001. Accordingly, Marbler is not a proper prior art reference under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Since

every §103(a) rejection relies on the teaching of Marbler, Applicant respectfully asserts that the rejections are improper.

Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application.

AUTHORIZATION

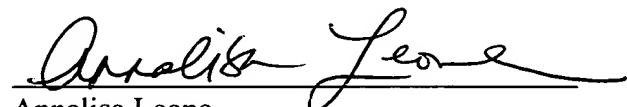
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, , Order No. 0164-4015. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 0164-4015. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: September 24, 2003

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